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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
Washington 25

B-106971

January 16, 1952

Mr. A. L. Rohan, Authorized Certifying Officer  
Bureau of Animal Industry  
Agricultural Research Administration  
Department of Agriculture

My dear Mr. Rohan:

Reference is made to your letter of December 29, 1951, requesting decision whether you may certify for payment the reclaim voucher therewith transmitted in the amount of \$10 as reimbursement to Theodore C. Byerly for cab fare paid by him August 19, 1951, in going from the Washington National Airport to Beltsville, Maryland. The payment of the \$10 fare is evidenced by a statement on the letterhead of the Airport Transport, Inc., signed by R. V. Edwards, presumably an official or employee of that company. It is stated in your submission that Dr. Byerly's residence is located in the Agricultural Research Center near Beltsville and that the Center is also his official headquarters. The original voucher on which the item first was claimed but which was administratively suspended contains an explanation of said charge, as follows:

"There is no public transportation available from the bus station at Beltsville to the house which is a total of three miles and is too far to walk, and streetcars run at long intervals at this time of the morning."

Paragraph 8(a) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations defines authorized transportation expenses as including the usual taxicab fares from station, wharf, or other terminal to place of abode or place of business.

Where, as here, an employee's official station is the Agricultural Research Center near Beltsville, Maryland, and his home is near Beltsville, and he arrives by air at 3:10 a.m. at the National Airport, the use of an Airport Transport, Inc. taxicab from the airport to home near Beltsville may not be considered as use of a taxicab within the meaning of paragraph 8(a) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations. The use of the Air Transport, Inc. taxicab to home in such cases is more in the nature of use of a special conveyance under paragraph 11 of the referred-to regulations and that cost thereof may not be certified for payment in the absence of an administrative determination of advantage to the Government as required by said paragraph 11.

The voucher is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) LINDSAY C. WARREN